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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/920,827	08/03/2001	Jai Chul Kim	HI-0038	7512

34610 7590 07/05/2006

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EXAMINER

KNOWLIN, THJUAN P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2614

DATE MAILED: 07/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/920,827	<b>Applicant(s)</b> KIM, JAI CHUL	
	<b>Examiner</b> Thjuan P. Knowlin	<b>Art Unit</b> 2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. Applicant's amendment filed on March 03, 2006 has been entered. Claims 1, 2, 6, 11, 17, 18, 19, and 21 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. Claims 23-31 have been added. Claims 1-31 are now pending in this application, with claims 1, 6, 12, 21, and 30 being independent.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. Claims 1, 3, 7-8, 11-13, 16-23, and 25-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Curtis et al (US 6,594,472).

4. In regards to claims 1, 8, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 25-31, Curtis discloses a mobile telephone (See Fig. 1 and radiotelephone 1) and interchangeable button cover comprising: a telephone body comprising a button portion (See Fig. 1 and keymat 5) and a straight groove formed on a side of the telephone body; and an interchangeable button cover interface (See Fig. 1 and front cover 2) which is configured to detachably couple to the telephone body, wherein the button cover interface can be slidingly fitted along the straight groove until it engages the fixing portion (See col. 2 lines 33-63 and col. 3 lines 28-30), and which supports multiple

different types of button covers, wherein the interchangeable button cover interface comprises a frame (See Fig. 1 and col. 2 lines 33-38).

5. In regards to claims 3, 7, and 13, Curtis discloses the mobile telephone and interchangeable button cover, wherein the button cover comprises a bar type cover (See Fig. 1 and front cover 2) comprising: keypads provided on one side of the frame which cover and are interlocked with key buttons of the button portion (See Fig. 1, col. 2 lines 33-63, and col. 3 lines 28-30).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

7. Claims 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 14, 15, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Curtis et al (US 6,594,472), in view of Slipy et al (US 5,848,152).

8. Curtis discloses all of claims 2, 5, 10, 15, and 24 limitations, except the mobile telephone, further comprising a button cover that is configured to be attached to the button cover interface, and that is configured to cover the button portion, wherein the button cover is a sliding lid type cover. Slipy, however, does disclose the mobile telephone, further comprising a button cover that is configured to be attached to the button cover interface, and that is configured to cover the button portion, wherein the button cover is a bar type cover (See Fig. 1 and faceplate 104) and a flip type cover (See Fig. 10, Fig. 11, faceplate 404, and keypad cover 418) (See col. 9-10 lines 65-15).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include a sliding lid type cover as one of the interchangeable button covers, as a way of allowing the user to alter the appearance of the mobile telephone (e.g. radiotelephone handset) with minimum expense and effort.

9. Curtis discloses all of claims 4, 6, 9, and 14 limitations, except the mobile telephone and interchangeable button cover, wherein the button cover comprises a flip type cover comprising: a flip cover hingedly connected to the frame for selectively covering and exposing the button portion by means of a pivoting operation. Slipy, however, discloses the mobile telephone and interchangeable button cover, wherein the button cover comprises a flip type cover (See Fig. 10, Fig. 11, faceplate 404, and keypad cover 418) comprising: a flip cover hingedly connected to the frame for selectively covering and exposing the button portion by means of a pivoting operation (See Fig. 8-11, col. 9 lines 1-12, and col. 9-10 lines 65-15).

### ***Response to Arguments***

10. Applicant's arguments filed 03/03/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that in order to change the overall appearance of the cell phone in Curtis, both the front and back housing must be changed, and therefore, Curtis does not disclose or suggest replacing just a cover for a button portion. The claims of the present invention, however, do not recite that just the cover for a button portion is replaced. Although, Curtis may teach or suggest replacing both the front and back housing of the radiotelephone 1, the prior art still reads on the present invention as

Art Unit: 2614

claimed. The present invention recites an interchangeable button cover, whereas, pointed out by Applicant, Curtis teaches that the both the front cover, which covers the key buttons, and the back cover of the telephone may be changed. Therefore, Curtis is capable of changing the radiotelephone appearance by changing the front cover (See col. 2 lines 33-53) (as well as the back cover). In regards to claim 12, Applicant argues that Curtis fails to disclose or suggest an interchangeable button cover configured to cover substantially only a plurality of key buttons on said telephone body. Applicant appears to be focusing on the word only and not the phrase substantially only. The limitation of substantially only, does not limit the cover to just covering the key buttons, but it means that the key buttons are what are largely, but not what are wholly covered by the interchangeable button cover. Therefore, Curtis does disclose and suggest an interchangeable button cover (i.e., front cover 2) configured to cover substantially only a plurality of key buttons on said telephone body (See Fig. 1). Applicant further argues that Curtis fails to disclose or suggest a frame configured for slidingly mounting along a mobile telephone body. Examiner respectfully disagrees with this argument. Curtis does disclose and suggest a frame configured for slidingly mounting along a mobile telephone body (See col. 2 lines 33-63 and col. 3 lines 28-30).

### ***Conclusion***

11. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Art Unit: 2614

12. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thjuan P. Knowlin whose telephone number is (571) 272-7486. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00pm.

13. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wing Chan can be reached on (571) 272-7493. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2614

14. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Thjuan P. Knowlin

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wing Chan', with a stylized, flowing script.

**WING CHAN  
SENIOR PRIMARY EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600**